THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suspension of operation of the demonstration plant for radiation processing of spices at Vashi was due to some procedural lapses observed by the inspection team of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) during their visit to the facility on 26 June, 2001.

(c) the procedural lapses were of a technical nature including the unsatisfactory performance of a component of an Audio-Alarm system, and not due to any human error. Adequate remedial measures have been taken to the satisfaction of the AERB inspection team.

(d) the plant has started functioning normally with effect from 17-7-2001.

Gene modified food items in Indian Market

469. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item published in "Navbharat Times" dated 20th June, under the caption "Gene Sanshodhit Khadya Padarthon kee Bhartiya Bazar Main Avaidh Ghuspaith Se Chinta'; and

(b) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) set up under the Rule 4 of the Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells 1989, under the environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has not accorded approval for import of any genetically modified food in the country.

Amendment in Sugar Development Board Rules

470. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Sugar Development Board